

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10
NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
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P 151506Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5191
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 01468

UNIDO
USUN FOR LEARY, U.S. REP TO UN CONFERENCE ON UNIDO

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: OCON, UNIDO
SUBJECT: GROUP B MEETING FEBRUARY 14

1. UNIDO GROUP B (WESTERN COUNTRIES) CAUCUS FEBRUARY 14
DISCUSSED POTPOURRI OF DETAIL IN PREPARATION FOR UN CON-
FERENCE ON UNIDO CONSTITUTION. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF RECAP-
ITULATION OF MORE SIGNIFICANT TOPICS WHICH LEARY MAY FIND
USEFUL AS BACKGROUND FOR GROUP B MEETING TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR MORNING OF FEBRUARY 17 IN NEW YORK. CARSTEN-
SEN (FRG) WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK EVENING FEBRUARY 15, AND IS
AVAILABLE AT UN PLAZA HOTEL.

2. CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS: GROUP B CHAIRMAN HOFF-
MANN REPORTED ON CONTACTS HE HAD HAD WITH G-77 (SIAZON)
AND GROUP D (EROFEEV). SIAZON STATED THAT G-77 VIENNA
AGREES WITH PROCEDURE FOR MEETING OUTLINED BY INDIAN
AMBASSADOR MEHTA, E.G., SHORTEST POSSIBLE OPENING PLENARY,
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IMMEDIATE CONCENTRATION ON NEGOTIATION OF CENTRAL ISSUES IN
DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUPS, ACCEPTANCE OF UNDISPUTED
PASSAGES OF CURRENT DRAFT CONSTITUTION AS REPRESENTING
AGREED TEXTS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE REOPENED. SIAZON ARRIVES
NEW YORK FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, HOPES TO ARRANGE G-77 MEET-
ING FOR FOLLOWING DAY, BUT DOUBTS HE WILL BE ABLE DO SO;
IN THAT CASE, G-77 WILL PLAN TO MEET BEGINNING MORNING OF

FEBRUARY 20, AFTER BRIEF OPENING SESSION OF PLENARY. SIAZON EXPECTS MEHTA TO BE ACCEPTED BY G-77 NEW YORK AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE; SIAZON HOPES TO BE APPOINTED SPOKESMAN OF G-77, BUT NOTES THIS WOULD REQUIRE THAT "PRESTIGIOUS POST" (READ CHAIRMAN OF NEGOTIATING GROUP) BE OFFERED TO JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR MILLS. G-77 VIENNA WILL BE STRENGTHENED IN NEW YORK BY ADDITION OF BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR MELLO; PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR SATTAR AND INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR KAMIL ARE ALSO NOW CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION IN LATTER STAGES OF CONFERENCE. EROFEEV TOL

PARTICIPATION IN LATTER STAGES OF CONFERENCE. EROFEEV TOLD HOFFMANN THAT GROUP D WANTS A VERY SMALL NEGOTIATING GROUP TO HANDLE THE CENTRAL ISSUES; HE "WOULD BE HAPPY" IF PRESIDENTIAL GROUP AS CONSTITUTED AT END IGC-V WERE RECONVENED IMMEDIATELY.

3. GROUP B DESIRES FOR ELECTIVE POSTS: ALTHOUGH MAJORITY OF GROUP B HELD THAT ELECTION OF G-77 REP AS PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE IS INEVITABLE, FRANCE AND ITALY WANTED GROUP B WITHHOLD ACQUIESCENCE TO THIS, APPARENTLY IN HOPE THAT THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN GROUP B CLAIM ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT CONFERENCE POSITION. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE FEELING WITHIN GROUP B THAT IT SHOULD CHAIR NEGOTIATING OR DRAFTING GROUP, BUT NO FIRM CONSENSUS EMERGED ON THIS POINT. NAMES OF FINNISH AMBASSADOR PIETINEN, AUSTRIAN REP WOLTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE L'EAU WERE PUT FORWARD AS POSSIBLE GROUP B CANDIDATES FOR CONFERENCE POSITION.

4. REVIEW OF COUNTRY SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED: PREAMBLE: AUSTRALIA, NORWAY AND FINLAND CAN ACCEPT PREAMBULAR PARA 3, ALTHOUGH AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON REFERENCE TO CERDS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR; UK REMAINS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO PARA 3 AS FORMULATED BY G-77; QUESTION OF LINK TO BODY OF CONSTITUTION GAVE RISE TO FAMILIAR DEBATE ON LEGAL STATUS OF PREAMBLE, WITH NORWAY CITING ARTICLE 31 OF VIENNA CONVENTION ON TREATIES IN SUPPORT OF ITS POSITION THAT PREAMBLE NOT BINDING. COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODIES; THERE WAS WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT THAT GROUP B COULD BE FLEXIBLE IN CONSIDERING VARIOUS FORMULAE FOR COMPOSITION OF IDB AND PROGRAM/BUDGET COMMITTEE, BUT NOT TO POINT OF CONCEDED G-77 CONTROL OVER BUDGETS; GROUP EXPRESSED CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR COMPOSITIONS AS OUTLINED IN CURRENT DRAFT TEXT OF CONSTITUTION. ANNEX II (B); AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY AND FINLAND ALL EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH PERCENTAGE FORMULA AND ALL COULD GO TO RANGE OF 8-10. IT APPEARS THAT ONLY U.S., UK, FRANCE AND PERHAPS SPAIN AND ITALY WOULD HOLD FIRM TO

5 LIMIT OR ACTIVELY SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMULA
(JAPANESE HAVE TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THEY COULD GO TO
8 BUT WILL WITHHOLD THIS POSITION FROM KNOWLEDGE OF REST
OF GROUP B FOR TIME BEING). NORWAY EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT
FOR U.S. POSITION ON REFERENCE TO UNDP IN FINAL SENTENCE.

COMNENT: GROUP DID NOT DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES
THAT MIGHT ENSUE FROM APPOINTMENT OF SIAZON AS SPOKESMAN
FOR G-77, AND DESIRABILITY OF FACILITATING THAT APPOINT-
MENT BY ALLOWING AMBASSADOR MILLS TO BE ELECTED AS CHAIR-
MAN OF NEGOTIATING GROUP OR OTHER POST OF PRESTIGE. LEY

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MAY WISH RAISE THIS IN GROUP B CAUCUS FEBRUARY 17 IN
HOPE OF EARLY SOLUTION TO DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTIVE
OFFICES. COMPLICATING FACTOR ARISES FROM APPARENTLY WIDE-
SPREAD GROUP B DESIRE FOR AT LEAST CHAIRMANSHIP OF ONE OF
THE TWO MAJOR WORKING GROUPS; WHILE GROUP B COULD PROBAB
BE CONVINCED ACCEPT CHAIRMANSHIP OF DRAFTING GROUP, YUGO-
SLAV CHAIRMAN OF IGC LEGAL DRAFTING GROUP WOULD BE LOGI-
CAL, AND WIDELY SUPPORTED, CANDIDATE FOR THAT POST IF HE
PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE. SINCE GROUP B HAD ACCEPTED
POST OF RAPPOREUR DURING FIVE MEETINGS OF IGC, THIS
OFFICE MAY OFFER FINAL FALLBACK IN RECONCILING GROUP B
DESIRES FOR CONFERENCE POSITION WITH LARGER QUESTION OF
INCREASING THE INFLUENCE AMONG G-77 OF HOPEFULLY MORE
MODERATE AND EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES FROM VIENNA. GARLAND

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